

Remarks

New independent Claims 21 - 22 and new dependent Claim 23 and amended Claims 3-5, 8-15, and 16-20 remain in this application. Claims 1-2 and 6-7 have been cancelled.

The Article Claims

The examiner has found Claim 7 allowable if rewritten in independent form, but he has rejected all of the other Claims for the article and the method on Fisher Pat. 4,552,039, for a NUT AND WASHER HOLDING ADJUSTABLE WRENCH and Poiencot Jr. Pat. 6571,505, for a FISH HOLDER. Applicant's invention is for a CONNECTOR COUPLING/DECOUPLING TOOL usable in installing and removing fiber optic and similar SC simplex and like connectors in densely populated connections of a terminal or similar block. It is submitted that the references relied upon by the examiner relate to non-analogous subject matter and are not material to applicant's device. As the examiner has recognized in finding Claim 7 allowable, these connectors usually have a trailing cable, and the tool must be able to accommodate such a cable and such a feature is not a concern of the references. The presence of a slot for carrying a cable is not taught or suggested by either Fisher or Poiencot Jr. and the possibility for having any such cable slot is remote from a fish holder, as in Poiencot Jr. or a nut and washer wrench, as in Fisher.

New Claim 21 expressly recites that "said gripper (has)...a cable slot...(for) a cable attached to said cable connector" and that "said sleeve (has)...a channel...(for) said cable. New Claim 22 dependent upon Claim 21 expressly recites that there is "sufficient overlap between the cable slot and channel to permit said cable to slide...as said gripper and sleeve slide relative to each other". This cable slot and the sliding action is completely foreign to Fisher's nut and washer wrench and Poiencot's fish holder, and these Claims should be clearly allowable over the art. These claims

contain the essential limitations of allowable now canceled Claim 7.

Amended dependent Claims 3-5 and 8-15 are all dependent upon Claim 21 and include the limitations of Claim 21 and are allowable not only as dependent on this allowable claim, but also because they independently recited patentable invention over the applied and cited art.

Minor amendments changing the reference of "the" to "said" have been made to make the claims more succinct.

The Method Claims

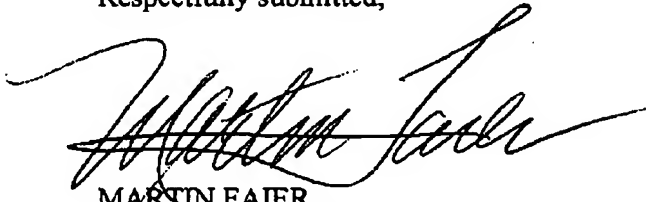
Applicant traverses the rejection of the method Claims 16-20. There is nothing in Fisher's nut and washer wrench patent or in Poiencot's fish holder to suggest a method for holding a cable having a connector as recited in these method claims. In new method Claim 23, applicant has added the step of "drawing the fingers into the sleeve so that the connector is reversibly locked into the connector tool and said cable is engaged in said slot" and this step is not in any way relevant to or taught by Fisher's means for installing a nut and washer or Poiencot's method of taking a hook out of a fish's mouth.

It is submitted that the rejection of Claims 16-20 should be withdrawn and these method Claims 23 and 16-20 should be found allowable.

Applicant submits herewith a Listing of Claims as required by 37 CFR 1.121.

Fees as may be required in this application may be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0040 of the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

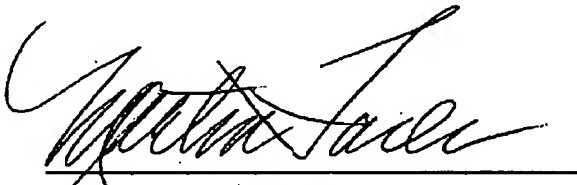


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CERTIFICATE OF SUBMISSION BY FACSIMILE

I certify that this Amendment A and the documents referred to herein were submitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office via fax phone 703/872-8806, the number provided by the examiner in the Action to which this Amendment A responds, on October 14, 2004, in accordance with the Rules.



Attorney.